

PROTECT COAST AND CLEAR LANES OF SUBMARINES

United States Navy Department Preparing Definitely for Forceful Action, and President Wilson Is Expected to Declare That a State of War with Germany Now Exists

NAVY MAY CO-OPERATE WITH ALLIED FLEETS

President Wilson Met His Cabinet This Afternoon, and the Announcement of Plans for the Protection of American Ships and Lives Is Likely to Be Made After the Conference

Washington, D. C., March 20.—Further steps to protect American lives and property against submarines are expected to take definite form after today's cabinet meeting. The calling of Congress in extra session immediately is still among the probabilities, but there are no indications that President Wilson has finally decided upon it.

Without waiting for a proclamation the president is expected to issue today or to-morrow that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany. Government officials to-day prepared definitely for forceful action to clear the trans-Atlantic lanes of German submarines and to protect the coast.

Preparations for carrying out the policy of armed neutrality to the fullest degree were being hurried in the navy department. The possibilities of their execution range even to active co-operation at sea with the British and the French fleets.

At a conference between the president and Secretary of the Navy Daniels yesterday, the decision was reached to take the following war action:

1. Advance the graduation of first and second classes at Annapolis Naval academy so as to increase the number of available officers.

2. To make use of the \$115,000,000 emergency fund appropriated by Congress in the naval appropriation bill to rush the construction of naval vessels now building and for the purchase of 200 motorboats and other submarine chasers.

3. To waive the eight-hour law in government and private shipyards so as to rush work on ships now under construction and rush the construction of submarine chasers in large numbers.

4. Not to commandeer any ship yards or materials for the present but to commandeer either or both any time it appears necessary.

5. To use every possible means to recruit the navy up to the full strength of 87,000 men authorized by Congress.

The president and Secretary Daniels admitted these emergency steps and that every other possible step is to be taken to defend American merchantmen against the war measures now being used by Germany against American vessels.

Secretary Daniels said it is the hope of the department that 200 submarine chasers can be mobilized within four months.

To speed up work on the vessels now building and to build quickly over 100 submarine chasers the navy yards are expected to put a 10-hour day into effect and to work two shifts a day.

With the \$115,000,000 emergency ship building fund at his disposal, Secretary Daniels is expected to offer financial inducements to the ship builders to justify them rushing work on government contracts in preference to doing private work.

Secretary Daniels said the president was particularly anxious to obtain more officers and more men for the navy. In order to get more officers the superintendent of the naval academy was instructed to graduate the first class on March 29 and get the second class ready for graduation in September. About 180 officers will be obtained from each class.

The navy has not at present sufficient men to man the 200 submarine chasers which are to be built just as fast as they can be turned out. It is likely limited enlistments will be offered men desiring to serve on these vessels and that the naval militia will be called out to help man them.

The fact that there are quite a number of American ships now in European waters and that they may meet the fate of the three ships sunk Sunday when they attempted to return, caused considerable anxiety to the administration yesterday.

The large ships of the navy would be of little use in guarding them from attack, it has been demonstrated. Therefore, unless British submarine chasers should by some arrangement undertake to guard them on their way back, they will run great risk of being sunk until such time as the American navy can equip submarine chasers and send them over to rescue the merchant ships. This fact is chiefly responsible for the haste being shown by the navy department to obtain the small submarine fighting craft as quickly as possible.

"EVERYTHING BEING DONE."

That Can Be Done to Safeguard Nation, Says Daniels.

Washington, March 20.—"Everything that can be done is being done or will be," says the official statement.

ALLIES EXPECT GERMAN DRIVE AFTER RETREAT

It Is Estimated That from 150,000 to 200,000 Troops Have Been Released by Von Hindenburg's Plan of Shortening the Line, and That They Are Ready for Tremendous Smash, Perhaps Toward Calais

BRITISH AND FRENCH ON HEELS OF GERMANS

Latter at Last Reports Were Within Striking Distance of St. Quentin and British Were Nearing Cambria to the Northward—German People Are Allowed to Hear of the Retreat for the First Time To-day

French troops, pushing hard on the heels of the retreating Germans, are to-day within striking distance of the Hindenburg line, the supposed goal of their retreating force. Troops of General Nivelle yesterday were rushing toward St. Quentin at a rate almost unprecedented in the present world war and had reached a point within five miles of the city, and unless some unheralded factor entered into the situation the French have by this time either reached St. Quentin or the German retreat has halted. In the meantime to the north the British are doggedly pushing forward toward Cambria and apparently are within striking distance of that town.

French artillery observers estimate that the German retreat already has released from 150,000 to 200,000 German troops who are now available for the long-predicted counter offensive to be launched against the allied lines at some speculative point. The Paris newspapers regard such a move on the part of Von Hindenburg as almost certain and they discuss the possibility of another tremendous effort to smash a way through to Calais.

Meanwhile the Russians and British are keeping up their strong offensives against the Turks in Asia Minor, Persia and Mesopotamia. Along the Dnieper the British have occupied the village of Bahirah and a portion of the town of Bagdad, about 25 miles northeast of Baghdad and the Turks are reported to be in a hasty retreat toward Khanikan, on the Turco-Persian front, a little to the northwest of Kermanshah. In this region the Ottoman forces are likely shortly to meet the oncoming Russians, who are reported by Petrograd to have dislodged the Turks from the town of Harabad, 20 miles southwest of Kermanshah.

The situation on the eastern front in Russia, in Galicia and Rumania is unchanged. Artillery duels and small infantry engagements continue on the Austro-Italian front.

Several Americans lost.

When Steamer Vigilance Was Sunk By Germans.

Plymouth, March 20.—Among those of the ship Vigilance drowned were several American citizens, including Third Officer Neils P. North and Third Engineer Carl Adelsolde. This information was given out by Capt. Frank A. Middleton of New York, who, with the survivors of the Vigilance, has reached the mainland and probably will make affidavits before the American consul.

To the Associated Press Captain Middleton said that his vessel was sunk without warning. It was ten o'clock Friday morning with the weather clear, when the ship was struck by a torpedo on the starboard side near the No. 3 hatch. Two torpedoes were fired at the steamer, but the first passed harmlessly astern. Between seven and ten minutes after the steamer was struck she foundered.

Two lifeboats were lowered from the Vigilance and the crew of 43 men got into them. Owing to the swell of the ocean, however, 26 men were thrown into the water. The boats of the captain and the mates picked up ten of the men, but the other fifteen were drowned.

Third Officer North of the Vigilance was born in Denmark but was a naturalized American. The name of Engineer Adelsolde was not contained in the list of the crew given out in New York Sunday night. This list said there were 65 men in the ship's company of whom 21, including Captain Middleton, were Americans. Two of the Americans were naturalized citizens and one, a Canadian, had taken out his first citizenship papers.

Captain Middleton says he saw no submarine during the attack, but that one of the engineers thinks he saw a periscope. The captain saw two oily streaks on the water about a thousand yards from the steamer, which he took to be the tracks of the torpedoes. The Vigilance was flying the American flag and had her name and a flag painted on either side.

SAY FRENCH FAILED.

Germans Report Unsuccessful Attacks By Enemy on Meuse.

Berlin (by wireless) March 20.—The French yesterday directed violent attacks against German positions on the left bank of the Meuse but everywhere were repulsed, says the official statement.

A Rotterdam dispatch to the Handelsblad says:

"Two of the five relief ships which with letters of safe conduct from the German legation were en route north-

ward, were shelled by a German submarine in the so-called 'safe passage.' Seven men were killed aboard the Tunisie, which entered Stavanger. The other vessels continued on their voyage."

Two steamers named Tunisie are listed, one of them a Belgian of 2,647 tons, which was last reported sailed from New York Jan. 28 and arrived at Rotterdam Jan. 28. The other is a French steamer.

FRENCH CAVALRY ACTIVE.

Is Being Used in the Pursuit of the Germans.

Paris, March 20.—The French troops have occupied about 20 additional small towns and villages in their advance after the retreating Germans. They have gone beyond Ham on the Somme river and Chauny on the Oise, which brings them appreciably nearer to the St. Quentin-laon line. The official statement of the war office last night announcing these gains, said:

"In the course of the day our troops have gone beyond Ham on the Somme river and Chauny on the Oise. We hold a great number of localities between these two towns."

"Our cavalry, diverging several kilometers north of Ham, captured a convoy which was retreating in the direction of St. Quentin. Our advance reached on this point a depth of 35 kilometers (nearly 22 miles)."

"South of Chauny our detachments reached the general line of Alliet-Soissons which has been entirely cleared. Northeast of Crouy our advance forces progressed along the road to Maubeuge."

"To-day about 20 additional villages and small towns were liberated."

"The enemy before his retirement devastated the country. Fruit trees were cut or torn down; fields were overturned by mines, which had opened up great craters; numerous villages were completely burned. The inhabitants, without shelter or sustenance, were fed by our troops. Roads of communication were cut at several points and all bridges were destroyed."

"In Champagne the artillery fighting became violent in the afternoon in the region of the Butte de Meul and west of Aubervilliers."

"On the left bank of the Meuse we recaptured almost all the trench elements which the enemy had entered. The fighting continues."

GERMANS LOST HEAVILY IN BIG VERDUN ATTACK

French War Office Reports That Their Attacks Were Repulsed at Avocourt Wood and at Hill 304.

Paris, March 20.—The war office announced to-day that the French are still maintaining contact with the Germans along the section of the front over which the retirement is taking place, but that the advance became more difficult by reason of the destruction of all means of communication and on account of bad weather.

German attacks at Avocourt wood and hill 304 on the Verdun front have been repulsed. Serious loss was inflicted on the Germans.

FRENCH PUNCTURED LINE IN MACEDONIA AND TOOK 1,200 MEN

Capture a Hill and Two Towns About Three Miles North of Monastir, According to Paris Announcement.

Paris, March 20.—French troops in Macedonia, according to a war office announcement this afternoon, captured a hill and two towns about three miles north of Monastir after a stubborn resistance. They took more than 1200 prisoners.

AMERICA PRAISED.

For Keeping Civilian Population of Northern France Alive.

From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press at the French front in France, via Paris, March 20.—The French troops made one of the most significant advances since the beginning of the war Sunday and Monday. Along a 60 kilometre front some hundreds of square kilometres fell again into the hands of the French, while the Germans' retreat movement gave no evidence of coming to a halt. This immense tract of reconquered territory was traversed Monday by a correspondent for the Associated Press, who found the inhabitants in many places where they were driven to remain by the Germans tearfully joyful at the reappearance of their fellow countrymen coming in as victors.

Among the first words from the women and children, who had been for 32 months in the hands of the Germans were expressions of gratitude to America.

"Americans have kept us alive; otherwise we would have died of hunger," the stricken people not being aware that an American correspondent was present.

At Candor nearly 200 women and children were left in German hands at the beginning of the war. The young men and girls were all carried off to Germany, their parents even now being ignorant of their whereabouts. Those remaining were compelled to do all kinds of work without payment and when for religious reasons they refused to work on Sunday they were fined. Even boys over 13 years of age were sent to dig ditches or small trenches for military telephone wires. All schools have been closed since the German occupation. The inhabitants assert that the German soldiers told them weeks ago that they were about to retreat as they were not able to withstand the constant attacks from the allies on all parts of the line and further that they were suffering from a shortage of food supplies.

These statements, however, are in direct contradiction to the new military works have been under construction for some time past far in the rear of the German front line.

CARRANZA PLAN IS REJECTED

United States Won't Follow His Proposal for World Peace

STATE DEPARTMENT SENDS HIM WORD

Chief Ground Is the Hopelessness of the Scheme

Washington, D. C., March 20.—A note to Carranza declining a proposal for neutral action to bring peace to Europe by cutting off exports of supplies to the belligerents was made public to-day by the state department. The refusal is based first upon the apparent hopelessness of peace at the present time, as shown in the futile efforts of President Wilson's efforts and Germany's attempts to embroil Mexico and Japan in a war with the United States, and in a belief that any restriction of commerce with the belligerents would, in effect, be an unequal discrimination.

RUSSIAN ARMY AND NAVY JOINS NEW GOVERNMENT

Ambassador Francis Reports to Washington That Full Support Is Given—United States May Recognize Government Soon.

Washington, D. C., March 20.—Complete co-operation of both the Russian army and navy with the new revolutionary government was reported to-day by Ambassador Francis. The question of recognition of the new government by the United States is becoming increasingly important, and possible action may be taken shortly.

TO PREACH SHINTOISM.

Japanese Woman Is Coming to the United States.

Tokio, March 20.—Miss Toshiko Sakamaki, a young Japanese woman, is leaving for the United States to preach Shintoism, the great Japanese religion of ancestor worship. She will settle in Los Angeles, and while her initial efforts will be to revive Shintoism among the Japanese in California she will strive generally to convert Americans.

"She explains her mission as that of endeavoring to counteract the tendency of young Japanese women to neglect the 'beautiful manners and customs of old Japanese civilization.' She is the first Japanese woman Shinto missionary to visit America. Many times sought in marriage she has always declined, declaring herself wedded to her cause."

GREEK BLOCKADE HAS BEEN LIFTED

And Ministers of Entente Countries to Greece Have Again Taken Up Their Residence in Athens.

London, March 20.—The ministers to Greece of the entente nations have again taken up their residence in Athens, Reuters' correspondent reports, and the discharge of a cargo of wheat destined for Piraeus begins to-day.

NO NEW CASES.

Suspected Infantile Paralysis Patients Did Not Have Disease.

Waterbury, March 20.—Because it was thought that there were two or three suspected cases of infantile paralysis, Dr. Taylor and his assistant from the state board of health office were called here yesterday. On examination it was found that the cases under suspicion were not afflicted with the contagion and after visiting those quarantined they returned home. This somewhat relieved the fear of a long siege during which all places of amusement are closed for public gathering. Mark Dillon, the most seriously affected, is improving slowly. The others are all doing well.

BOY UNDER BONDS.

Charged with Putting Iron Nut on Railroad Track.

George Welch of East Montpelier, 16-year-old schoolboy, was placed under \$100 bonds yesterday afternoon in county court on complaint of State's Attorney F. E. Gleason, charged with the attempted derailment of a train on the Montpelier & Wells River railroad by placing a two-pound iron nut on the tracks about two miles from Montpelier. The alleged offense happened Friday.

HIGHEST PAID SOLDIERS

Are Said to Be Those of New Zealand Under New Law.

Wellington, New Zealand, March 20.—From the fact that New Zealand soldiers in this war "may" now be paid up to \$10 a week above their ordinary wages, it is asserted in the dominion that they are the highest paid soldiers in the world. The special allowance is for men who can establish that their civil obligations justify their receiving it. And it is payable alike to "cents" and "cents"—as volunteers or drafted men are called. One of the grounds entitling a soldier to additional payment is: "Expenses in respect of the management of his business during his military service."

FOUND A BOMB.

It Was Outside a Plymouth, Mass., Factory.

Plymouth, Mass., March 20.—The state police reported to-day that an unexploded dynamite bomb was found late last night outside the chapel of the Plymouth Cordage company.

DEATH OF FRANK MALNATI

Occurred at His Home on Brook Street To-day.

Frank Malnati, well known among Italian people who have settled in Washington county, passed away at his home, 23 Brook street, this afternoon at 12:30 o'clock. Mr. Malnati had been in declining health for several months and during the winter he had been unable to work. He leaves his wife, who was Miss Josephine Malnati, to whom he was married in Italy 25 years ago, and two daughters, Mrs. Mary Belmont and Miss Martina Malnati, both of Barre. Two brothers live in Argentina and a sister resides in Italy.

The deceased was 46 years old and a native of Buesio, Italy, where many of his countrymen living in Barre were born. Seventeen years ago he came to America and for a time he lived in Plainfield. Afterward he moved to Montpelier, where for 15 years he was employed by G. R. Bianchi & Co. Two years ago he came to Barre and while his health lasted he worked for his brothers-in-law, Malnati Bros., in their granite plant. Mr. Malnati was a blacksmith by trade and his fellow employees regarded him as a skilled mechanic. Many friends in Barre and Montpelier will regret to learn of his passing.

The funeral will be held at the house Thursday afternoon and the body will probably be placed in the receiving vault at Elmwood to await interment later in the spring.

STATE TROOPS SCATTERING.

Federal Government Changes Order Recently Promulgated.

Washington, March 20.—War department officials yesterday rescinded an order under which demobilization of many National Guard units home from the border had been interrupted with the apparent purpose of holding the troops in readiness for any necessary duty in case of a nation-wide railway strike.

Until last night the existence of the order had been denied at the department, and in finally confirming that it had been issued officials declined to reveal its purpose. Secretary Baker said, however, that it had nothing to do with the international situation. It was learned later that it was sent out late Saturday night at a time when the administration is known to have had under consideration the use of state troops to guard food and mail trains.

The rescinding order was telegraphed to all department commanders early yesterday and officials here expecting that the interrupted work of mustering out the guardsmen will be resumed to-day at all the local camps. Mr. Baker said the demobilization would not be stopped again unless there were unforeseen developments and that there had been no disposition to hold them under arms because of the situation with Germany.

DIED OF EXPOSURE.

After Jumping from Moving Train at Dedham, Mass.

Dedham, Mass., March 20.—The body of a man, believed to be John E. Ryan of Quincy, about 50 years old, was found at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon lying at the foot of an embankment along the New Haven tracks at Canton Meadows, one and a half miles south of the city station. The body was seen by engineer C. R. Green of a passenger train, who notified the tower man at Readville. Dr. John W. Pratt found the child badly cut, hands and knees badly lacerated and numerous bruises.

He had jumped from a moving train, was badly injured, dying from exposure, Dr. Pratt says. In his pocket was a card of the Quincy Carpenter's union bearing the name of John E. Ryan, a bank book of the Quincy Savings bank in the name of John E. Ryan, which showed \$17 was drawn March 17; a gold watch that stopped at 7:10; a hospital bill made out in the name of Joseph H. Ryan, 42 Field street, Quincy. The little finger on one hand was missing.

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REFERENDUM ON SUFFRAGE

Proposed by Senator Bigelow in Vermont Senate To-day

WOMEN TO HAVE COMPLETE SUFFRAGE

Fight Against Granting License Commissioner Appointment Governor

A proposal to grant full suffrage to women taxpayers over 21 years of age and then to submit the measure to a referendum of both males and females, who would be eligible to vote under the new law, was made in the Vermont Senate this forenoon when the bill to grant woman suffrage in town meetings was taken up for discussion. Senator Bigelow of Orange county was the proposer of the amendment.

Senator Bigelow proposed to amend the bill before the Senate by taking out all after the enacting clause an substituting new features as stated above, together with the referendum attachment. The Senate had just started to debate the proposed amendment when the matter had to be set aside in favor of the bill to give the governor the authority to appoint license commissioners, which bill came up as a special order.

Senator Fairchild led the opposition to the bill granting the governor the right to name license commissioners and he took the ground that the governor would be annually besieged with persons acting as agents for prospective candidates or prospective licensees; that the office of governor would be brought into liquor politics thereby and that the office would be open to the charges of graft perhaps the same as in the case of the county assistant judges now. Other speakers on the same side of the question followed up a similar line of argument. Senator Peck led the fight for the measure, and he said he could not see wherein the office of governor would be dragged in the mud of liquor politics. All through the debate the liquor traffic came in for some hard knocks.

The bill was finally ordered to a third reading after Senator Aldrich had called for the yeas and nays, the vote standing 15 to 11. Those voting to reject were Senators Adams, Aldrich, Bancroft, Benton, Cadby, Chalmers, Day, Demeritt, Repton, Fairchild, Martin.

Those opposed to rejection were Senators Daniels, DeWitt, Redmond, Foote, Hawley, Howe, Leavens, McCellan, Morse, Peck, Ricker, Russell, Taylor, Vilas and Wheeler.

The bill creating a board of control is to be taken up after other matters on the forenoon calendar are completed.

The House to-day spent considerable time on the fish and game bill, fixing the open season for deer from Nov. 5 to Nov. 15. The bill was ordered to a third reading after a proposal to amend by permitting the killing of does had been defeated by a vote of 142 to 62.

The conference committee on the salary of the fish and game commissioner has completed its work and the House has won its fight for a \$2,000 salary, as against the Senate request for \$2,500. The committee will recommend to the Senate that it recede from its position.

The special commission which has been investigating the Brattleboro retreat has not yet finished its work and may not report before the latter part of the week or the first of next week.

The House yesterday afternoon passed the following bills:

H 115, permitting foreign corporations to act as executor or trustee; H 160, abolishing highway district of West Derby; H 392, giving F. W. Watson of Townsend privilege of taking water on state property; H 396, permitting domestic insurance companies to withdraw deposit with approval of state treasurer; H 416, to pay Henry Dumas the sum therein named; H 329, relating to care of insane paupers.

The House concurred in the Senate's proposals of amendments to H 167, providing for exempting towns or cities having 25 or more legal schools from granting of excises by school directors.

New Bills in House.

The following new bills were introduced in the House:

H 419, by committee on municipal corporations; dog bill, license fees and fines go to state to pay dog damage; unexpended money to be returned to towns pro rata.

H 420, by committee on claims; to pay G. J. Seager the sum therein named.

H 421, by committee on fish and game; fixes open season for deer from Nov. 15 to Nov. 25, from 5 a. m. to 5 p. m.

H 422, by committee on municipal corporations; orders drawn by town road commissioner, payable to himself, must be approved by selectmen.

H 423, by committee on municipal corporations; amending charter of St. Albans.

The Senate last night passed the following bills: S 128, enabling towns to acquire land and buildings for town houses and free libraries; H 173, relating to headlights and spotlights on vehicles; H 194, to pay town of Lunenburg the sum therein named; H 234, making C. S. census sheets now deposited in county courts accessible; H 238, accepting benefits of federal vocational educational bill; H 354, providing uniform traffic regulations; H 396, relating to town and district school meetings.

The Senate passed H 390, reorganizing state board of health, after striking out provisions giving such board duties of supervisors of insane.

Manager Holan of the Barre opera house received a telegram to-day that the "Robin Hood" company which plays at the local theatre to-night will arrive over the Montpelier & Wells River road at 5:45, making the long jump from Dover, N. H., where it played last night.